

# T.E.A.C.H.



# FACT SHEET

**WHAT IS T.E.A.C.H.?** T.E.A.C.H. (Teacher Education And Compensation Helps) Early Childhood<sup>®</sup> PENNSYLVANIA is an umbrella for several different scholarship programs to help child care and youth work professionals complete course work toward a degree or credential in their field and increase their compensation. In 1998, Pennsylvania Child Care Association (PACCA) began T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood<sup>®</sup> PENNSYLVANIA. In 2008-2009 PACCA is expanding the program to youth work professionals.

**WHERE IS T.E.A.C.H.?** T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood<sup>®</sup> PENNSYLVANIA has provided scholarships to recipients in 65 counties throughout the state. With funding totaling more than \$4 million in 2008 - 2009, T.E.A.C.H. continues to administer the scholarship program statewide.

**WHO PARTICIPATES?** Any child care or youth work professional working in a state-regulated child care or self-regulated youth work setting is eligible to apply for a scholarship. To date, more than 4,000 child care professionals and 2,000 sponsoring child care programs in Pennsylvania have participated in T.E.A.C.H. In 2009 PACCA will offer the first scholarships for afterschool and youth work professionals.

**WHY ARE WE NEEDED?** The most critical indicator of quality care is the education level of child care and youth work professionals. Children and youth also need stability during their child care and out-of-school time program experiences. Pennsylvania has a child care center staff turnover rate of 38% per year (and climbing), partially because child care professionals receive very low wages.

**HOW DO WE HELP?** T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood<sup>®</sup> PENNSYLVANIA assists child care and youth work professionals in achieving educational goals. The project also provides increased compensation with each year of education and requires that participants agree to continue working at their sponsoring employer for a year following training.

**HOW ARE WE FUNDED?** T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood<sup>®</sup> PENNSYLVANIA is funded by foundations, associations, corporate contributions, federal funds and state dollars. T.E.A.C.H., the scholarship recipient, and sponsoring employer all pay a portion of educational costs.

**WHO BENEFITS FROM T.E.A.C.H.?** Children and youth are the main beneficiaries. They are able to bond with a staff person who has made a commitment to the field, who is a specialist in their field and who can respond appropriately to the needs of children and youth. Child care and youth work professionals benefit by increasing their knowledge and compensation. In turn, they experience increased professional status and job satisfaction. Child care and youth work programs benefit by having staff who are more knowledgeable about good early childhood and youth work practices. Participating employers have reported reduced staff turnover, which has helped to improve their program quality and marketability.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:  
**Pennsylvania Child Care Association (PACCA)**  
2300 Vartan Way, Suite 270 | Harrisburg, PA 17110  
Phone: (717) 657-9000 | Fax: (717) 657-0959  
<http://www.pacca.org/teach>